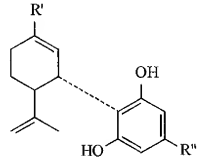
Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An optically pure (+) enantiomer of a compound of the formula:



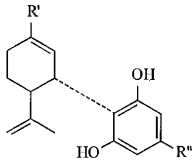
Formula I

wherein:

- R' designates a —COOH or —CH_2OH group, and
- R" designates (i) a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, or (ii) an —OR'" group wherein R'" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group, or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or (iii) a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7; with the proviso that R' is not —CH_2OH when R" is pentyl or dimethylheptyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

2. (Original) The (+) enantiomer of claim 1, wherein R' is —COOH and R" is a pentyl or dimethylheptyl group.

3. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing as active ingredient a compound of the formula:



Formula I

wherein:

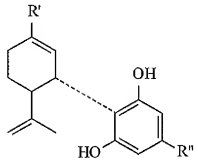
- R' designates a —COOH or —CH_2OH group, and
- R" designates (i) a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, or (ii) an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group, or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or (iii) a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7;

with the proviso that R' is not —CH_2OH when R" is pentyl or dimethylheptyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof and

further comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive, excipient or diluent.

4. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, comprising an additional pharmaceutically active agent.

5. (Previously presented) A (+) enantiomer of a compound of the formula:



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester for use as a selective modulator of the peripheral cannabinoid system.

6. (Withdrawn) The (+) enantiomer of claim 5 for use as an analgesic agent.

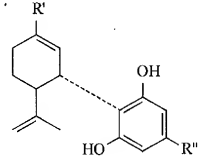
7. (Withdrawn) The (+) enantiomer of claim 5, for use as a modulator of the immune system.

8. (Withdrawn) The (+) enantiomer of claim 5 for use as anti-inflammatory agent.

9. (Withdrawn) The (+) enantiomer of claim 5 for use as a modulator of the gastrointestinal tract.

10. (Withdrawn) The (+) enantiomer of claim 5 for use as anti-diarrheal agent.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of selectively treating a disorder associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula

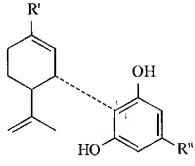


Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein said disorder is pain.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of selectively treating an immune disorder associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula

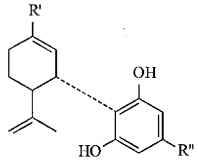


Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said disorder is inflammation.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of selectively treating a disorder associated with the gastrointestinal tract in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula

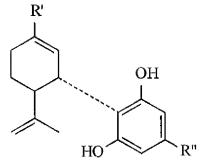


Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—$C_{1\text{-}5}$ alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said disorder is diarrhea.

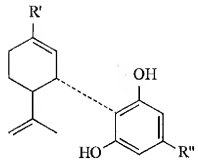
17. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the selective treatment of disorders associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system comprising as active ingredient a compound of formula



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of peripheral conditions, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a compound of formula



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or $-CH_2OH$ group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a $-(CH_2)_n-O-C_{1\text{-}5}$ alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof to a subject in need.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said peripheral conditions are selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, diarrhea and inflammatory pain.